

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-19 are pending in the present application; claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 15, and 17 being independent. In light of the remarks contained herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the Office Action dated December 24, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-4, 6, 10, 12-14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Watanabe et al.* (USP 5,953,481) in view of *Freeman et al.* (USP 5,579,239); and rejected claims 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 15, and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Watanabe et al.* in view of *Freeman et al.* and *Matsumoto et al.* (USP 5,796,428). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Examiner Interview

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interview conducted on March 12, 2003. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments and remarks contained herein are made further to the discussions had during the interview.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103 - *Watanabe et al./Freeman et al.*

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Watanabe et al.* in view of *Freeman et al.*, by this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to note that the wireless communication device transmits at least one of the image data and the operation information when the camera is within a predetermined distance of the external apparatus. During the interview, the parties agreed that the prior art as cited does not teach this element. As such, it is

respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of claim 1, together with claims dependent thereon, be withdrawn.

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of claim 12, the Examiner admits that *Watanabe et al.* does not disclose the wireless communication device transmitting image data. The Examiner relies on *Freeman et al.* to disclose a remote video transmission system where image data is transmitted wirelessly from a camera-integrated device (1, 2) to an external device (3). During the interview conducted on March 12, 2003, the Examiner explained that she was relying on the teachings of *Watanabe et al.* to teach a camera-integrated type VTR. Based upon this teaching of *Watanabe et al.*, the Examiner asserts that video camera 1 and remote unit 2 may be combined. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of these references.

It is respectfully submitted that *Watanabe et al.* discloses a camera-integrated type VTR 10 which has an editing function for editing video signals recorded on a recording medium such as magnetic tape, in conjunction with a stationary type VTR 11 which is remotely operable. The camera-integrated VTR 10 is provided with a recording and reproducing part 1 for recording and reproduction. The recording and reproducing part 1 includes a system control part 2 arranged to control the processes of the editing function as well as control over the whole apparatus, a remote-control signal transmitting part 3, a remote-control code storing part 4, and an input key group 5 provided for input of data of various kinds, a character generating circuit 6 and a viewfinder 7 (col. 7, line 62 - col. 8, line 7).

The remote video transmission system taught by *Freeman et al.*, however, discloses a device having the capacity to output a video signal 1, such as a video camera, video cassette recorder/player, laser disc player, etc., and a remote unit 2 which is designed to be portable so that it can be transported and used in areas which are inaccessible or unsuited for a conventional desktop personal computer. In the preferred embodiment, *Freeman et al.* teaches the remote unit being a portable personal computer having a 486DX-2/66 motherboard, 10-inch plasma display, 210 MB notebook hard disk drive, MS DOS Vet. 6.2 operating system, Microsoft® Windows™ Ver. 3.1, Microsoft® Video for Windows, Procom Plus® for Windows, trackball bus mouse, high speed serial ports, 1 MB Windows accelerator video card, video capture card with capture module, audio capture card, SVGA to NTSC converter, SVGA video adapter. The remote unit also has up to four computer interfaces such as modems, each connected to a cellular telephone.

A signal is input into remote unit 2 from any device having the capacity to output a video signal 1, such as a video camera, video cassette recorder/player, laser disc player, et c. The video signal received by the remote unit can be of any generally known format, such as NTSC, PAL, and Y/C video (or S video). The remote unit 2 is designed to be portable so that it can be transported and used in areas which are inaccessible or unsuited for a conventional desktop personal computer. (Col. 4, ll. 17-36).

It is respectfully submitted that *Watanabe et al.* teaches integrating a camera with a VTR. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is extending beyond the

teachings of *Watanabe et al.* in asserting that video camera 1 may be combined with remote unit 2 as set forth in *Freeman et al.*

Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that there is no motivation to use the teachings of *Watanabe et al.* in combining the video camera and the remote unit of *Freeman et al.* It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art, seeking to solve the problem of providing a highly portable cost-effective method and apparatus for capturing and transmitting broadcast quality video from a remote location to a base location, would not consider combining the video camera and the remote unit as set forth in *Freeman et al.* Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's reliance on *Watanabe et al.* is improper to teach a combined video camera/remote unit in *Freeman et al.* As such, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 by failing to provide a reference that teaches an electronic camera comprising a wireless communication device which transmits image data and information relating to image data for storage on an external apparatus. It is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

It is further respectfully submitted that claims dependent on claim 12 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 12 based upon their dependency on claim 12.

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of claim 4, the present invention set forth in claim 4 recites, *inter alia*, an external apparatus which is remotely controlled by an electronic camera, the external apparatus comprising a wireless communication device which communicates with the electronic camera. As noted above, it is respectfully submitted that the external apparatus as set forth in *Freeman et al.* is communicating

with remote unit 2 and not video camera 1. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness by failing to provide a reference that teaches or suggests all of the claimed elements. As such, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn. It is further respectfully submitted that claims dependent on claim 4 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 4 based upon their dependency on claim 4.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) -
*Watanabe et al. /Freeman et al./Matsumoto et al.***

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of claim 2, again, the Examiner is relying on the combination of *Watanabe et al.* and *Freeman et al.* to disclose a wireless communication device which communicates with the electronic camera. As noted above, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants disagree with the Examiner's characterization of these references and submit that neither *Watanabe et al.* nor *Freeman et al.* discloses a wireless communication device which communicates with the electronic camera. It is respectfully submitted that *Matsumoto et al.* fails to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Watanabe et al.* and *Freeman et al.* as *Matsumoto et al.* fails to teach the wireless communication device of the present invention, assuming these references are combinable, which Applicants do not admit. As such, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn. It is further respectfully submitted that claims dependent on claim 2 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 2 based upon their dependency on claim 2.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 15 contains elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 2 and, thus, claim 15 is not obvious over the references as cited by the Examiner.

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, it is respectfully submitted that, as noted above, the references fail to teach a wireless communication device which transmits image data as set forth in claim 5. It is respectfully submitted that *Matsumoto et al.* fails to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Watanabe et al.* and *Freeman et al.* as *Matsumoto et al.* fails to teach or suggest a wireless communication device which transmits image data, assuming these references are combinable, which Applicants do not admit. As such, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of claims 9 and 11, it is respectfully submitted that these claims contain elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claims 5 and 15 and, thus, claims 9 and 11 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claims 5 and 15.

It is further respectfully submitted that claim 17 contains elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 5 and, as such, claim 17 is allowable over the references as cited by the Examiner for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 5.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at telephone number (703) 205-8000, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

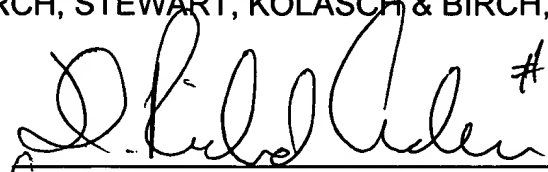
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-

2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17;
particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version With Markings to Show Changes Made



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An electronic camera, comprising:

a body;

a control part provided to the body, the control part being operated by a user; and

a wireless communication device which transmits image data,

wherein the wireless communication device further transmits operation information corresponding with operation of the control part to an external apparatus to remotely control the external apparatus; and

wherein the wireless communication device transmits at least one of the image data and the operation information when the camera is within a predetermined distance of the external apparatus.

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